

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.  
REPORTS COLLECTION COPY

Rural District Council of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR 1950



# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD

## *Annual Report for 1950 of the Medical Officer of Health.*

October, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

DARTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am writing to amplify the statistical material of the fifty-second annual report which I have the honour to submit herewith.

**LIMITATIONS.** In a population of our size certain rates are built up on small figures and are therefore influenced considerably by chance. The illegitimate still birth and infant mortality rates illustrate this point.

The figure for deaths compiled locally is 2 less than that supplied by the Registrar General and the local figure contains 1 infant death from pneumonia not in the Registrar General's list. It has not been feasible to investigate these errors, as by the time we had opportunity to re-check our figures, the Registrar General's tabulation had advanced beyond correction. However, the error is less than 1% and no statement in this report is immune from an error of this size anyway.

The classification of deaths by the Registrar General differs slightly from ours on account of fuller information obtained by him in response to special inquiries.

Where feasible, the Registrar General's figures will be used, but otherwise, e.g. where age is discussed, our own figures will have to be used.

**POPULATION.** The estimated mid-year population increased by 980 on the previous year. Excess of births over deaths accounted for only 230, and so 750 persons appear to have entered the district. The estimated population changed from "civilian" to "home" so as to include armed forces stationed in the area, but as these are negligible this change in definition cannot explain the increase.

**BIRTHS.** The adjusted birth rate shows a continuation of the decline from the high rate of 1946. Since 1943 the trend has been akin to that of England and Wales, the adjusted rates being:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Dartford Rural District ...	17.0	17.8	17.3	22.2	21.9	18.3	16.6	15.5
England and Wales ...	16.2	17.7	15.9	19.2	20.5	17.8	16.7	15.8

The favourable comparison with the birth rates of England and Wales is of interest, as this district appears to contain more members of the professional and managerial occupations whose circumstances tend to restrict their family size; moreover being a rural district, our housing allocations seem fewer in proportion to those of urban areas.

Of the 545 births 237, or 44%, were born in their own homes in the district.

The illegitimacy rate was 44 per 1,000 live births, compared with 49 for England and Wales. With the exception of two years the records available show a lower illegitimacy rate in this district than in the country as a whole.

The number of births in 1950, i.e. 280 male and 265 female, if maintained throughout a century at the 1949 England and Wales expectations of life at birth of 66 years for males and 71 for females, would maintain a population of 18,500 males and 18,800 females, an improvement on the present population as the figure would contain only a minute institutional population (E. & O.E.).

**DEATHS.**—In numbers there is a small increase on the previous year, 334 compared with 321. The numbers occurring during the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters were 101, 76, 89 and 68, respectively; in 1949 there were 95, 91, 70 and 65. In 1950 young deaths showed a decrease and old deaths a more than compensatory increase on the previous year. Thus in 1950, 230 (69%) occurred at the age of 65 or over and 145 (45%) occurred at 75 or over; the figures for 1949 were 195 (60%) and 123 (38%) respectively.

Main causes of death may be summarised as follows:—

	England and Wales percentage of all deaths 1949.	Dartford Rural District Main Causes by percentage in Age Groups.			
		All Ages.	Under 55	55—74	75 and over.
All causes of death	100%	334 (100%)	62 (100%)	127 (100%)	145 (100%)
Main causes ...	76%	265 (79%)	30 (49%)	106 (84%)	129 (88%)
Diseases of heart and circulatory system ...	37%	138 (41%)	6 (10%)	57 (45%)	75 (52%)
Cancer ...	16%	65 (20%)	15 (24%)	29 (23%)	21 (14%)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12%	34 (10%)	3 (5%)	13 (10%)	18 (12%)
Bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases ...	11%	28 (8%)	6 (10%)	7 (6%)	15 (10%)

**CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 AND OVER.** In case it may shed some light on the increasing problem of the care of the aged, a separate table has been provided to show their causes of death. The primary causes of death, however, give little indication of the mental and physical health of these old persons in life. 24 males and 27 females died in hospital.

**DEATH RATES.** The adjusted death rate 9.2 compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales of 11.6 as in former years. Since 1943 rates have been as follows:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Dartford Rural District ...	10.2	11.3	10.3	10.4	10.9	9.5	8.9	9.2
England and Wales ...	13.0	12.7	12.6	12.0	12.3	11.0	11.8	11.6

The favourable relationship exists throughout our records—i.e. we have no record of a death rate in the district which is not less than that of England and Wales. Our institutional population may contribute some explanation of this phenomenon as deaths therein are, where possible, transferred out to the district of their former residence.

**CANCER OF THE LUNG.** In view of the atmospheric conditions and proximity to London where incidence is high, an interest in this condition was begun in 1948 with a view to collecting the experience of this and neighbouring districts over a period of 5 years. In 1949 there were in this district 4 male and 1 female and in 1950 8 male and 2 female deaths from the disease, the latter gives a death rate of 0.27, compared with 0.28 and 0.43 the rates for England and Wales and London, respectively.

In 1950 statisticians of the Medical Research Council in a preliminary report showed an association between this condition and tobacco smoking—but few of us want to notice their publication.

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS.** In 1950 there were no deaths from this cause, compared with 8 in 1949.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.** The only deaths in this group were 15 from respiratory tuberculosis, of which 1 was unnotified in life, and 12 from pneumonia of which 8 were unnotified.

**CORONARY DISEASE.** The death rate works out at 0.92. The England and Wales rate for 1950 is 1.25.

**DEATHS RELATING TO WELFARE OF MOTHER AND INFANT.** No deaths occurred due to causes associated with pregnancy, compared with 2 in 1949. Stillbirths number 9 compared with 14. Deaths in the first month of life numbered 12 compared with 8, and all but 2 occurred in hospital. All these foregoing deaths are associated with the affairs of reproduction rather than environment.

Deaths in the second to twelfth month of life numbered 5, compared with 8 in 1949. Of these 4 were due to environment and pneumonia was the cause in each case. All occurred in the 1st quarter. The environment concerned being (i) an old type caravan, (ii) lodgings with in-laws in an overcrowded house, (iii) a house not in all respects habitable, (iv) a twin in a similar house. The infant mortality rate 31.2 compared unfavourably with the 1949 rate of 28.3 and with the 1950 England and Wales rate of 29.8.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. MEASLES.** The end of the year brought the beginning of a measles epidemic which continued well into 1951. Half the cases were under 5 years of age, nevertheless the disease seems to have maintained the mild character assumed in recent years. The epidemic was seen coming and posters describing the initial symptoms and the need for isolation, were, with permission, stuck on telegraph poles in the villages before it arrived.

**PNEUMONIA.** Notification of any disease if reasonably complete may reveal some useful epidemiological truth and, as suggested in the last annual report, pneumonia is no exception to this. The 1950 quality of notification (25 notifications to 12 deaths) shows an improvement on 1949 (10 notifications to 9 deaths), nevertheless it is still



poor. We are not alone in this, in 1950 the County of London for example had almost as many deaths as notifications. The fatality of the disease suggested by these figures is absurdly exaggerated; sulphonamides and penicillin are effective in treatment and, except in old age, the death rate of the disease in England and Wales in the last decade has been almost halved.

**FOOD POISONING.** Three of the cases were members of a family who had eaten a tin of imported sardines whose remnants on culture showed *Staphylococcus aureus*, i.e. a food poisoning germ.

**PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.** The number of deaths is much the same as in previous years, the new notifications however showed a noticeable increase no doubt due to better detection and notification. The figures were as follows:—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
New Cases ... ..	20	29	45	41	42	63
Deaths ... ..	15	12	11	14	12	15

On the register at the end of the year there were 248 cases, of which 8 males and 9 females were in hospital. Of the remaining 231 there were 29 on the waiting list for admission and of these 3 were early cases, 12 were intermediate cases and 14 were chronic infectious cases.

The early cases require treatment in hospital to arrest the progress of the disease. Owing to a policy prescribed by the Ministry, hospital accommodation is being used almost exclusively for early cases who are capable of cure in a few months. With the opening of Bow Arrow Hospital and its use for early cases, the waiting list for such cases has markedly diminished.

Advanced infectious cases present a problem in regard to isolation of the case and prevention of the spread of the disease to others. Domestic reasons make it difficult for some patients to be away from home and, in those cases where hospital treatment is required, it is I believe almost impossible to find a bed owing to early cases getting almost exclusive priority. Their home contacts, I'm told, are vaccinated with B.C.G. but experience of its protective value in this country has still to be gathered. However, the position in this district seems better than in neighbouring areas, and if hostels and night sanatoria are the answer to the problem there is a variety of empty hospital buildings around us which could presumably be considered for the purpose.

**CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE. DIPHTHERIA.** Primary immunisation against diphtheria showed a slight drop and reinforcing inoculations in school children showed a marked drop compared with 1949. The drop in the reinforcing inoculations was due to there being no inoculations arranged for the schools. No diphtheria case occurred for the second year in succession. In 1938 there were 77 cases.

**SMALLPOX.** There was a mild increase in vaccinations compared with 1949. Compared with England and Wales the acceptance rates for infant vaccinations appear to be comparatively good. Assumptions have to be made in working out the acceptance rate and so the calculation had better be shown in full:—

(a) The number of births in 1950 was 545.

Average age of infant vaccinated is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  months.

Therefore number of infants under 1 year of age eligible for vaccination in 1950 =  $545 \times \frac{7\frac{1}{2}}{12} = 340$ .

Returns show 154 vaccinated which, out of 340 eligible, gives an acceptance rate of 45%.

(b) Registrar General's method:

Returns show number vaccinated in 1950 under 5 years = 255.

By sample survey 96% can be assumed to be vaccinated before 1st birthday = 245.

Infants eligible are those born between mid-Augusts 1949 and 1950 = 550.

245 vaccinated out of 550 eligible is an acceptance rate of 44%.

In 1949 England and Wales acceptance rate worked out by the latter method was 27%.

1947 in Dartford Rural District 66% of infants were vaccinated before the age of six months.

HOUSING. The thorough and comprehensive survey of housing conditions which was planned in time of war following the Hobhouse Committee's report has fizzled out in time of peace. Only 572 houses were surveyed out of 6,000 requiring survey and the information collected is too small to be of use and is now out of date. There could have been no other end to this large task as no extra staff were engaged. Many of our houses have out-lived their normal life and are of out-moded standard. As routine house-to-house inspection is not possible such houses come to the notice of the Council's Sanitary Inspectors only on complaint by the tenant and only when statutory action is contemplated is the Council's attention engaged. We have therefore no complete picture of present housing conditions. Overcrowding exists but precisely which parts of the district are most affected is unknown.

Apart from the practical value of shedding light on future housing problems, the survey would have given us information on how the present population is living and the relationship between housing and health. To be brief, it would have indicated where next year's infant pneumonia deaths will occur.

WATER. 1 to 1.5 parts per million of fluorine has been shown to provide some protection for young teeth against decay. The fact that the fluorine content of our water supplies is negligible raises the question of whether the element should be added before distribution.

That concludes my comments on the few facts available to me relating to the human health in this district. The account is incomplete as the pattern of present-day public health administration denies the district Medical Officer of Health access to all the relevant information which concerns his area.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support, and the staff and local servants of the public for their co-operation during the year under review.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

---

Several statements in this report owe their origin to official and unofficial publications which are available for consultation.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,113
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,253
Home Population mid-1950 (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,870
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Book 31/12/50)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,541
Rateable Value 1st April, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£236,515
Sum represented by 1d. rate, 31/3/51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£944

At the time of writing the approximate distribution of the population is as follows: —

PARISH.	ACRES.	POPULATION.
Sutton-at-Hone	3,625	8,100
Stone	3,009	6,600
Wilmington	1,718	3,700
Eynsford	3,544	2,550
Darenth	2,223	2,200
Horton Kirby	2,814	2,100
Farningham	2,739	1,900
West Kingsdown	3,476	1,800
Southfleet	2,409	1,400
Hartley	1,211	1,250
Longfield	605	1,150
Ash	3,214	1,020
Fawkham	1,198	380
Lullingstone	1,557	75
Ridley	834	75
		<hr/> 34,300

### HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION.

Darenth Park	1,900
Stone House	510
Southern	470
White Oak	150
Kettlewell	100
Parkwood	80
	<hr/> 3,210
Two Homes for Boys	240
	<hr/> 3,450
TOTAL POPULATION	<hr/> 37,750

The distribution of age and sex amongst the population is akin to that of England and Wales and the comparability factor for deaths is 1.00. The fact that some of the women aged 18-44 shown in our population are inmates of hospital or institution raises our comparability factor for births from 0.99 to 1.05.



Precise figures regarding occupations, family incomes, family size, nutrition, etc., would require a social survey, which is not feasible. However, one thousand consecutive death returns have been analysed in regard to occupation with the following results: —

Occupation.	Dartford Rural District.	Males, England and Wales, 1931. Per thousand.
I Professional Workers, Professional Engineers, Lawyers, etc. ... ..	31	25
II Teachers, Employers, Managers, Retail and Wholesale Proprietors, etc. ... ..	191	140
III Clerks, Fitters, Mechanics, Salesmen, etc. ...	407	490
IV Agricultural Labourers, Semi-skilled Labourers, etc. ...	171	180
V Unskilled Labourers ... ..	200	165
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>

The following figures may help to measure the conditions at the unhealthy end of the social spectrum: —

Cases dealt with by the N.S.P.C.C.:

Cases of neglect ... ..	27
„ „ ill treatment ... ..	7
„ „ moral danger ... ..	5
„ „ advice sought by parents ... ..	11
Children involved ... ..	117
Unemployed on the 31st December, 1950 ... .. about	30
Percentage of potential uptake of M.O.F. vitamin preparations unconsumed (Dartford Borough and Rural District) ...	70%
Dealers in undesignated milks ... ..	2

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	267	254	521
Illegitimate ... ..	13	11	24
	<u>280</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>545</u>
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population ... ..	...	...	14·8
Birth Rate adjusted for females aged 18-44 in population* ... ..	...	...	15·85
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated total population, England and Wales, 1950 ... ..	...	...	15·8

\* Women in mental hospitals and similar institutions excluded.

# Still Births.

								Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
								3	6	9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.7

# Deaths from All Causes.

								Males.	Females.	Total.
								176	160	336
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Death Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated total population, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6

								Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births.	Total Births.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	0							0	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.86	

# Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

								Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate under 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
„ over 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
								9	8	17

# Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
All infants per 1,000 related live births, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.8
All infants per 1,000 related live births, London and South-East Region	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.9

Cause of Death.			Under 1 week	1-3 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	...	...	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	5
Congenital malformation of heart	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Intracranial injury at birth	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
			12	—	—	—	12	3	1	1	—	17

# CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX.

## Registrar General's Return.

	Male.	Female.	Persons.	
All causes ... ..	176	160	336	
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	9	6	15	
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—	—	
Syphilitic disease ... ..	1	—	1	
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—	
Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—	
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—	
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	—	—	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	6	7	13	68
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	8	2	10	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	8	8	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4	4	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	21	12	33	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—	
Diabetes ... ..	1	3	4	
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	13	21	34	
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	25	11	36	138
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	9	11	20	
Other heart disease ... ..	39	33	72	
Other circulatory disease ... ..	4	6	10	
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1	
Pneumonia ... ..	5	7	12	25
Bronchitis ... ..	4	6	10	
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	1	2	3	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—	1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	1	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	5	2	7	
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—	4	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—	
Congenital malformations ... ..	2	1	3	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	15	3	18	
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—	—	
All other accidents ... ..	3	2	5	
Suicide ... ..	—	1	1	
Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—	—	

## GLOSSARY.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** An invasion by the organism of tuberculosis. When the invasion progresses the result is a rotting of the affected part. When invasion is resisted the healing results in scarring.

**TUBERCULOSIS RESPIRATORY.** This process affecting lungs, lung covering, windpipes, throat and nose.

**TUBERCULOSIS, OTHER.** The same process affecting coverings of brain and spinal cord, intestines, bones, joints, skin, kidneys, bladder, etc.

**SYPHILITIC DISEASE.** Results, early and late of invasion by the organism of syphilis; includes syphilis at birth, and late effects damaging heart, arteries, nerves and brain.

**MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.** Invasion by the organism of "cerebro-spinal fever" whose most common result is inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).

**ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.** A virus disease which the public are encouraged to call "Polio" instead of by the old name of infantile paralysis. Not confined to infants and need not result in paralysis.

**OTHER INFECTIVE AND PARASITIC DISEASES.** Includes anthrax, tetanus, gonorrhoea, typhoid fever, food poisoning by bacteria, relapsing fever, typhus, small pox, cholera, malaria, worm diseases, scarlet fever, erysipelas, the dysenteries and other "germ" diseases.

**MALIGNANT NEOPLASM.** A growth whose increase continues indefinitely and gives birth to secondary growths which behave similarly. "Cancer." When found early in accessible parts can be cured by removal.

**BRONCHUS.** Lower windpipe. **UTERUS.** Womb.

**LEUKAEMIA.** The above malignant process occurring in the white blood cells.

**VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM.** Apoplexy; stroke; seizure; burst blood vessel in brain.

**CORONARY DISEASE, ANGINA.** Deprivation of the muscle of the heart of its blood supply on account of disease in its arteries.

**HYPERTENSION.** High blood pressure.

**OTHER HEART DISEASES.** Includes valvular disease, rheumatic and non-rheumatic; dropsy, due to heart failure; heart block; degeneration of the heart.

**OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE.** High blood pressure without heart disease; hardening of arteries; ballooning of arteries; closure of arteries; inflammation of veins; blocking of arteries to lungs.

**NEPHRITIS AND NEPHROSIS.** Inflammation of kidneys. Dropsy due to Bright's disease.

**HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE.** Obstruction to the outflow of urine from the bladder in the male due to enlargement of the gland encircling its outlet.

**CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS** Defects present at birth; monstrosities, uncovered brains and spinal cords, defects in formation of heart, incomplete intestines; and others.

**OTHER DEFINED AND ILL-DEFINED DISEASES.** All other causes of death not provided for elsewhere in the list.



# CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE.

Compiled Locally.

			Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	75+	All Ages
All causes	...	...	12	5	1	—	1	7	4	6	26	43	84	145	334
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	1	2	4	—	15
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	5	13
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	2	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
Other malignant, and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	3	4	12	30
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4
Vascular lesions, nervous system	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	8	18	34
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	13	10	34
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	19
Other heart disease	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	23	44	74
Other circulatory disease	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	7	11
Influenza	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	7	16
Bronchitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	11
Other diseases, respiratory system	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ulcer stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	5	8	27
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	4
Suicide	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

65

138

28

# CAUSES OF DEATHS AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER.

	MALE.					FEMALES.					
	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-99	Total	
All causes ... ..	35	19	13	3	25	28	17	4	1	145	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	5	} 21
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	12	
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	2	1	—	3	4	3	—	—	18	
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	4	1	—	—	3	4	1	1	—	10	} 75
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	2	2	—	1	4	1	1	—	13	
Other heart disease	6	5	7	3	7	11	4	1	1	45	
Other circulatory disease ... ..	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	7	
Pneumonia ... ..	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	7	} 15
Bronchitis ... ..	1	2	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	8	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	

21

75

15

# BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950.

				England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London).	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Admin- istrative County.	Dartford Rural District.
<b>BIRTHS:</b>				Rates per 1,000 Home Population.				
Live births	...	...	...	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	15.5
Still births	.	...	...	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	0.24
<b>DEATHS:</b>								
All causes	.	...	...	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	9.2
Typhoid and paratyphoid	...			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	...	...		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.41
Influenza	...	...	...	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.03
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis)	...			0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.42	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.33
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected):</b>								
Typhoid fever	...	...		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	...	...		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	...			0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23	0.76
Whooping cough	...	...		3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21	2.53
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.19
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57	5.40
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50	0.68
Acute poliomyelitis (includ- ing polioencephalitis)								
Paralytic	...	...		0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.08
Non-paralytic	...	...		0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.03
Food poisoning	...	...		0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25	0.11
<b>DEATHS:</b>				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All causes under 1 year of age				29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3	31.2
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...		1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.8
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected):</b>				Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia				5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03	1.8

(a) per 1,000 related live births.

## TREATMENT SERVICES.

A summary of these services was given in the previous report. The following changes occurred in 1950:—

- (a) Bow Arrow Hospital (120 beds) was converted from a hospital for infectious diseases to one for the treatment of early cases of tuberculosis. Infectious diseases thenceforth were admitted to a unit of 45 beds in Joyce Green Hospital.
- (b) The Home Help services tended to expand to about 30 Home Helps, mostly part-time. This expansion was not so great as the neighbouring urban area and there is an impression that relatives tend to meet their obligations to the sick more readily in the rural area.

## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

A summary of these services was given in the previous report. The significant changes in 1950 were:—

- (a) Temporary closure of Swanley ante-natal clinic at the end of the year.
- (b) Closure of Swanly Day Nursery at the end of the year.

## LABORATORY SERVICES.

The following specimens from this office were examined at the County Laboratory:—

Water for bacteriological analysis	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ chemical analysis	...	...	...	...	...	20
Milk (Special Designations) ...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Suspected food	...	...	...	...	...	3
Urine for chemical examination	...	...	...	...	...	3
Faeces ...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water.

An account of the water supplies has been given in previous reports. The only significant change during 1950 was the demolition of Puddledock Cottages, which reduced the number of dwellings on standpipe supplies by 8 and the demolition of Devon Cottages which reduced the dwellings on domestic wells by 3.



At the end of 1950 the position in regard to quantity and quality was as follows:—

10,414 houses supplied by Metropolitan Water Board and Mid Kent Water Co.

Quantity satisfactory.

Samples taken of water going into supply:—

Results.	Bacteriological.	Chemical.	
Good	11		Reports from M.K.W.C.
Good	14	2	Sampled by this office.

65 houses supplied by piped supply from well in Lullingstone Park, parish of Lullingstone.

Quantity satisfactory.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.	Chemical.
Good ... ..	2	2

24 houses supplied by piped supply from well at Court Lodge Farm, parish of Horton Kirby.

Quantity unsatisfactory.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.	Chemical.
Passable ... ..	1	1
Unfit for drinking ...	1	1

9 houses supplied by piped supply from one well at Sutton House, Clement Street, parish of Sutton-at-Hone.

Quantity satisfactory.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.
Satisfactory ... ..	1

14 houses supplied by pump or bucket from adjacent wells.

Quantity unsatisfactory.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.	Chemical.
Passable ... ..	8	7
Unfit for drinking ...	2	1

15 houses supplied by rainwater.

Quantity unsatisfactory.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.	Chemical.
Unfit for drinking ...	1	1

---

10,541 TOTAL.

---

2 Hospitals supplied by well.

Samples:—

	Bacteriological.
Satisfactory ... ..	2

## FLUORINE CONTENT.

				FLUORINE.		
Metropolitan Water Board supplies	...	...	...	0-0.1	parts	per million.
Mid Kent Water supply	...	...	less than	0.1	"	"
Lullingstone Water supply	...	...	...	0.1	"	"

## Drainage and Sewerage.

An account of the drainage and sewerage of the district was given in previous reports. During 1950 Birchwood Road sewer extension in the parish of Wilmington, a distance of 4,000 feet, was completed. By the end of the year 24 dwellings out of a possible 67 had been connected thereto.

At Old Chapel Road, Crockenhill, in the parish of Eynsford, an extension of 121 yards was completed, part payment being received from the owner of the property primarily served.

Including new buildings, a total of 253 premises were connected to Darenth Valley Main Sewer and 80 to Stone Sewer.

The effluent from Stone outfall works was subjected to chemical analysis on 14 occasions by the County Analyst and once by the Port of London. All samples were satisfactory as judged by the impurity figure. Four samples, however, showed hydrogen sulphide present.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of the year the accommodation was as follows:—

Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into drainage system	...	...	8,219
Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into septic tanks	...	...	101
Buildings with W.C.'s discharging into cesspools	...	...	2,127
Buildings provided with pail closets	...	...	About 79
Buildings provided with privies	...	...	About 15
TOTAL			10,541

## Atmospheric Pollution.

DUST FROM CEMENT WORKS. \*The following is reproduced from the Annual Report for 1950 of the Chief Inspector, Alkali, etc., Works:—

The demand for cement has continued to necessitate the operation of works to full capacity throughout the year. In these circumstances, the fact that comparatively few complaints have been received is encouraging and indicative of the good effect of the progressive installation or reconstruction of dust arrestment plant in areas of intensive production . . . . .

Under the Alkali, etc., Works Order, 1950, the definition of Cement Production Works was extended by the words "and works in which cement clinker is ground or cement is packed." No new works have been added to

the Register in consequence, but powers have now been secured for the control over these low level emissions which can be important contributors to local nuisance. In fairness to the Industry it should be stated that this aspect of cement manufacture had begun to receive attention before the Order was drafted and the extended definition had the prior approval of the Industry. Progress is satisfactory.

Electrical precipitators are still favoured as the most suitable means for dealing with the dust laden kiln gases. They are, however, expensive to instal, a unit for an average sized kiln—say 15 to 20 tons per hour—would now cost some £40,000. They require considerable supervision and maintenance and, moreover, there is still much that is obscure regarding the behaviour of high voltage electricity when applied to gases containing nearly 50% of moisture. Generally speaking works records indicate fairly continuous operation with occasional failures receiving prompt attention. Major overhauls are as far as is practicable reserved for periods when the kiln concerned is also down for overhaul.

With regard to the position on Thames-side (1949 Report, page 13), the area of most intensive production, progress has continued. The District Inspector has paid close attention and a number of visits have been paid by the Deputy Chief Inspector and myself. We have kept in touch with the Joint Committee set up by the Local Authorities. At works on the South bank of the river the programme of improvements is complete, so far as major measures are concerned except at works No 6465. At this works each of the four precipitators will be taken out of action in turn for complete overhaul, so that by the end of 1951 the whole battery should be operating again and in good order. Additional measures are also in hand at the same works for reducing emissions at lower level from various conveyors and the modernisation of the packing plant should further reduce dust still occurring at low level. Various ancillary and unregistered processes at the individual works, e.g., for hydrated lime, whiting and carbonate of lime production, are receiving or have already received attention. These white materials have great covering powers as pigments and the effect of dust emission from their production is out of all proportion to the scale of operations compared with normal cement manufacture. On the North bank of the Thames the programme is complete in so far as installation of electrical precipitators for kiln gases is concerned. At one of these works (No. 6120) an electrical precipitator has been installed to deal with dust arising from the grinding mills, the first of its kind in Great Britain. This particular works is so large that in spite of its full complement of electrical precipitators and the measures which are in hand for improved handling of materials it is feared that some grounds for complaint will still remain. The programme of levelling and grassing has continued, the effects being most striking at works south of the river. There are now over a score of electrical precipitators in the area and the maintenance of these in an operable condition, the maintenance of flues in a state of repair in the face of serious corrosion difficulties, the maintenance of bag filter units on grinding, packing, etc., plants constitutes a major problem. The works concerned are alive to this and are giving it constant attention.

*\* Reproduced with permission of the Controller of H.M.S.O.*

## HOUSING.

The amount of time spent on dealing with housing complaints has continued to prevent house-to-house inspection.

Up to date figures on statutory overcrowding are unavailable.

Unfortunately, the need for more houses continues to be of the utmost urgency.

The work done by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors to obtain the repair and improvement of existing property is given below in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The number of dwellings completed by the Council in 1950 was 248 houses and 3 flats. By private enterprise, 33 houses.

The Housing Welfare Officer states:—

At the close of December, 1950, the effective waiting list for Council houses in the Dartford Rural District numbered 943; the total registered applications for the year being 1,224. During the year, 281 families were re-housed by the Council.

NEIGHBOURHOOD.							FAMILIES RE-HOUSED DURING 1950.
Ridley	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ash	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fawkham	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hartley	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
West Kingsdown	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Longfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Southfleet	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Betsham	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bean	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Darenth	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Stone	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Eynsford	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Farningham	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Horton Kirby	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
South Darenth	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sutton-at-Hone	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lullingstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Swanley	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Crockenhill	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hawley	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hextable	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wilmington	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Outside Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
							<hr/> 281 <hr/>

One hundred and thirty three existing Council tenants were moved to accommodation more suitable to their requirements.

Whilst acknowledging the need of families who have no separate homes of their own, the Housing Sub-Committee responsible for the allocation of houses are still pursuing their policy of re-housing families from houses unfit for human habitation, wherever possible.

## SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

An Order was obtained from the Court for the removal to hospital of an aged and infirm gentleman who was living alone in insanitary conditions and not receiving sufficient care and attention. Unfortunately the old gentleman died three weeks after removal to hospital.



**PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**  
**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.**

DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.				CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.				TOTAL DEATHS.
Smallpox ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	28	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Dysentery (bacillary) ... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia ... ..	25	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas ... ..	7	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	—
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ... ..	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	—
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	93	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles ... ..	199	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scabies ... ..	2	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	—
TOTALS ... ..	367	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	12

7 pneumonia, 2 dysentery, 2 whooping cough, 1 scarlet fever occurred at Institutions and Hospitals.

**Age Groups.**

		Under												Total.
		1 Yr.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	1	1	1	2	16	4	—	2	1	—	—	28
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery														
(Bacillary)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Pneumonia	...	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	1	2	3	6	4	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	7
Poliomyelitis														
Paralytic	...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Poliomyelitis														
Non-Paralytic	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal														
Infection	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	1	7	13	10	13	43	6	—	—	—	—	—	93
Measles	...	4	16	26	28	26	94	4	—	1	—	—	—	199
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	4
Scabies	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Ophthalmia														
Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	7	24	40	42	42	158	19	1	7	9	10	8	367

## Measles, 1950.

		Sutton-at-Hone	Stone	Wilmington	Eynsford	Darent	Horton Kirby	Farningham	West Kingsdown	Southfleet	Hartley	Longfield	Ash	Fawkham	Lullingstone	Bidley	
January ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
February ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ...	...	2	17	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	21
June ...	...	—	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
July ...	...	—	16	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	21
August ...	...	—	13	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	21
September ...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
October ...	...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
November ...	...	—	7	5	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	16
December ...	...	29	7	46	10	2	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	102
TOTALS ...	...	35	69	52	11	7	7	2	2	—	5	2	3	4	—	—	199

## Whooping Cough 1950.

TOTALS ...	...	8	6	5	15	16	8	9	5	—	—	9	2	10	—	—	93
------------	-----	---	---	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----

## Acute Poliomyelitis.

The homes of the cases of poliomyelitis were in that part of the district in communication with the Thameside urban areas. Their addresses were:—

Paralytic:           Warren Road, Wilmington.  
                      Sackville Road, Wilmington.  
                      Carlton Gardens, Stone.

Non-Paralytic:   Devon Road, Sutton-at-Hone.

## Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ...	8	6	—	—	1	1	—	—
20—25 ...	2	9	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35 ...	8	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—45 ...	6	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—55 ...	8	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 and upwards ...	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	39	24	2	1	9	6	—	—

After the end of the year the register was revised by an inquiry into every case recorded therein. As a result the number of cases on the register at the end of 1950 was:—

PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
153	95	16	13

### *Distribution of the Cases on the Register.*

PARISH.	PULMONARY.		PERSONS.	NON-PULMONARY.		PERSONS.
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
Sutton-at-Hone ... ..	30	27	57	3	4	7
Stone ... ..	38*	18	56	2	2	4
Wilmington ... ..	16	10	26	2	—	2
Eynsford ... ..	10	6	16	—	—	—
Darenth ... ..	18*	12*	30	1	—	1
Horton Kirby ... ..	8	5	13	3	3	6
Farningham ... ..	4	2	6	—	—	—
West Kingsdown ... ..	5	4	9	—	—	—
Southfleet ... ..	5	2	7	2	1	3
Hartley ... ..	8	1	9	—	—	—
Longfield ... ..	6	2	8	3	2	5
Ash ... ..	1	3	4	—	1	1
Fawkham ... ..	2	1	3	—	—	—
Lullingstone ... ..	2	2	4	—	—	—
Ridley ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* Includes 2 males and 4 females in Darenth Park Hospital and 2 males in Stone House Hospital whose notifications cannot be transferred to the districts of their former home.

### *Occupations.*

PULMONARY.						MALES.	FEMALES.	PERSONS.
Under school age ... ..						1	1	2
Scholars ... ..						8	10	18
Labourers ... ..						28	3	31
Housewives ... ..						—	36	36
Factory Workers ... ..						17	11	28
Office Workers ... ..						6	14	20
Mechanics, Fitters, etc. ... ..						30	—	30
Farmers, Nurserymen, Gardeners ... ..						12	—	12
Retailers ... ..						9	3	12
Domestic Workers ... ..						1	6	7
Old Age Pensioners ... ..						4	2	6
Others ... ..						37	9	46
						153	95	248
						<hr/>		
NON-PULMONARY.						MALES.	FEMALES.	PERSONS.
Under school age ... ..						—	1	1
Scholars ... ..						12	5	17
Housewives ... ..						—	5	5
Others ... ..						4	2	6
						16	13	29
						<hr/>		

No infectious case of tuberculosis is known to have an occupation which involves the handling of milk.

## CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### *Immunisation against Diphtheria.*

The following is derived from returns supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:—

	PRIMARY INOCULATION.	REINFORCING INOCULATION.	† MID-YEAR POPULATION.
1950.			
Children aged 0—4 years, inclusive...	356	14	3,090
Children aged 5—14 years, inclusive ...	39	165	4,930
1949.			
Children aged 0—4 years, inclusive ...	382+32*	12+7*	2,975
Children aged 5—14 years, inclusive ...	148+1*	553+2*	4,818

\* Additional figures are late returns received after the 1949 report.

† Population figure obtained from Registrar General and reproduced with permission of The Controller, H.M. Stationery Office.

Number of children under 15 years of age on the 31st December who had completed one course of immunisation at any time before that date:—

1950	...	...	...	...	5,551
1949	...	...	...	...	5,501

### *Vaccination against Smallpox.*

The number of persons vaccinated against smallpox:—

AGE AT 31ST DECEMBER.	UNDER 1.	1 TO 4.	5 TO 14	15 OR OVER*	TOTAL.
1950.					
Number vaccinated ... ..	154	101	17	19	291
Number re-vaccinated ... ..	—	4	6	57	67
1949.					
Number vaccinated ... ..	135	84	5	22	246
Number re-vaccinated ... ..	—	2	7	34	43

\* Incomplete.

One case of suspected smallpox occurred for which a consultant opinion was called. The case was diagnosed as chicken pox.

### *Treatment of Scabies and Headlice.*

During the year there were no treatments for scabies or headlice at the cleansing station.

### *Venereal Disease.*

The following figures of new cases attending during 1950 have kindly been supplied by the special clinic:—

Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gonorrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
							<hr/> 16 <hr/>

# Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

---

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my report for the year 1950.

I am,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**F. SUTCH,**

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	388
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	3,279
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	19
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	369

Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	245
--	-----



Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—									
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NOTE.—Only 8 dwellings rendered fit in 1950. Remainder completed in 1951

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—									
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NOTE.—Only 15 notices complied with in 1950. The remainder in 1951.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished by informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

NOTE.—The following dwelling house was demolished by formal action:—

“Stanshope,” Cherrytree Grove, East Hill, West Kingsdown.

The following dwelling houses were demolished by informal action:—

1—2, Black Cottages, Button Street, Farningham.

1-7, Puddledock Cottages, Wilmington.

5, 7, 8, 14 and 16, Horns Cross Square, Stone.

“Farriers,” Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown.

5, 7 and 9, Devon Road, Sutton-at-Hone.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(e) Housing Survey, position at end of the year:—

Total number of houses surveyed and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	572
Category 1. Satisfactory in all respects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
„ 2. Minor defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
„ 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
„ 4. Appropriate for re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ 5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

# PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

## Summary of works carried out during 1950:—

Connections made to new sewers ... ..	82
New cesspool drainage and privy pits abolished ... ..	16
New cesspool drainage and pail closets abolished ... ..	15
Cesspools abolished ... ..	57
Cesspools repaired ... ..	2
Cesspools constructed ... ..	13
Sewage disposal plant abolished ... ..	1
Sanitary Accommodation:—	
(i) Insufficient ... ..	—
(ii) Defective: New water closet accommodation provided	57
New W.C. pans provided ... ..	22
Drainage:—	
(i) Re-constructed ... ..	9
(ii) Repaired ... ..	40
(iii) Cleansed ... ..	31
Bathrooms provided ... ..	2
New sinks provided ... ..	19
New wash hand basins provided ... ..	3
New wash houses provided ... ..	2
Piped water supply provided ... ..	3
Cooking ranges, stoves, coppers and boilers renewed or repaired ...	23
Water waste preventors renewed or repaired ... ..	46
Water storage tanks renewed ... ..	1
Waste pipe to sinks, baths and lavatory basins repaired ... ..	3
Gutter of rainwater pipes renewed or repaired ... ..	43
Roofs repaired ... ..	68
Chimney stacks repaired ... ..	10
External walls repaired ... ..	8
Dampness to walls abated ... ..	29
Windows repaired ... ..	84
New window cills provided ... ..	5
Floors repaired (4 dry-rot) ... ..	41
External doors renewed ... ..	15
Handrails provided to staircases ... ..	8
Staircase woodwork repaired ... ..	3
Permanent ventilation provided ... ..	1
Wall plaster repaired ... ..	122
Ceiling plaster repaired ... ..	85
Yard paving provided ... ..	10
New dustbins provided ... ..	39
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	18
Rainwater soakaway provided ... ..	1
Properties disinfected after infectious disease ... ..	11
Properties disinfested of vermin ... ..	24
Properties treated for woodworm ... ..	3
Properties treated for wasp nests ... ..	16
Property treated for ants ... ..	1
Defects remedied regarding tents, vans, sheds and gipsy camps ...	8
Total number of inspections made ... ..	2,647

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## Milk Supply.

There are 21 registered distributors and 8 registered dairies in the Rural District. The following licences have been issued under The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949:—

NAME AND ADDRESS.	DEALERS. LICENCES.				SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES.		
	T.T.	T.T(P).	PAST.	STER.	T.T	PAST.	STER.
S. H. Barden, 7, Elm Road, Stone ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Chapman & Son, West Kingsdown Dairy ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
H. S. Clarke, The Parade, Hartley	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
S. S. Cockburn, Hever General Stores, West Kingsdown ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dartford Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd. ... ..	—	—	6	—	1	1	—
Evans & Payne, Station Road, Longfield ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Express Dairy Co., Ltd., Tavis- tock Place, London ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
L. Griggs, Meadowview, Crock- enhill ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Mrs. Hill & Son, Hook Green Dairy, Wilmington ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
H. W. Hollands, Green Farm, Fawkham ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Houlding Bros., Weylands Farm, Darenth ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
London Wholesale Dairies, Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Nestle Co., Ltd., Hayes, Middlx.	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Miss N. Parsons, Heathside Farm, Wilmington ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peter's Dairy, Otford ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
A. E. Sheffield, Swyres Farm, Darenth ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Surrey Milk Co., Sleaford Street, London ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
United Dairies, Ltd., Western Avenue, Acton ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
E. Widdows & Son, Homefield Farm, Sutton-at-Hone ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
McDougal, Yew Tree Farm, Hawley ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Southwoods Dairy Farms, Vale Road, Northfleet ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS ... ..	10	—	17	6	5	5	3

## Results of Informal Action regarding Dairy Premises.

New washing facilities provided at one dairy.  
 New bottling plant installed at dairy.  
 Cleansing completed to walls and ceilings of three dairies.  
 Repairs to walls, floors, etc., completed to three dairies.  
 Total number of visits: 128.

## Milk Sampling.

15 samples submitted to County Laboratory. . . . .  
 2 samples proved unsatisfactory (November)

GRADE.	NO. OF SAMPLES TAKEN.			NO. OF SAMPLES UNSATISFACTORY.	
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	2	...	...	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised ... ..	2	...	...	—	—
Pasteurised ... ..	8	...	...	2	—
Sterilised ... ..	2	...	...	—	—
Raw Milk ... ..	1	...	...	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	15	...	...	2	—

## Ice Cream.

Applications for registration for the sale of ice cream under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were received from 11 persons during the year, making the total number of registered premises for the sale of ice cream 69.

26 visits were made by inspectors during the year and 21 samples of ice cream submitted to the County Laboratory. These samples were graded as follows:—

Grade I ... ..	13	61 %
„ II ... ..	3	15 %
„ III ... ..	4	19 %
„ IV ... ..	1	5 %
	21	100 %

## Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Summary of animals killed and carcasses and offal inspected in private slaughter-houses:—

PARTICULARS.	COWS.	CALVES.	SHEEP.	PIGS.	GOATS.
Number killed ... ..	2	21	23	198	3
Number inspected ... ..	2	21	23	198	3
(i) All diseases except tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	1	1	—
Percentage of number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	4.3	.5	—
(ii) Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of number inspected ... ..	—	—	—	2	—

The following items were surrendered at slaughterhouses: —

Tuberculosis:	3 Pigs heads.
	4 lbs. Messenteric fat.
	18 lbs Pork.
Other diseases:	12 lbs. Sheeps liver, hydatid cysts.
	6 lbs. Pork, excessive bruising.

The following items were surrendered from shops and canteens: —

Meat	...	...	1 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. imported beef affected with bone taint
Bacon	...	...	2 qrs. 1 lb. 10 ozs
Fish	...	...	7½ stone of haddocks (headless).
			2 stone of hake.
			3 stone 4 lbs. filleted bream.
			1 stone cod.
Butter	...	...	47 lbs. 2 ozs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	2 x 14 oz. tins condensed milk.
			4 tins evaporated milk.
Sundries	...	...	174 x 10 lb. tins Apricot Pulp.
			10 lbs. Marmalade.
			3 lbs. Jam.
			1 tin of Prunes.
			3 tins of Apple Jelly.
			4 x 14 oz. tins Prune Puree.
			2 x 16 oz. tins Pineapple Slices.
			1 x 6 lb. tin Strawberries.
			7 tins Baked Beans.
			4 tins Peas.
			4 x 1 lb. tins Diced Beetroot.
			3 x 16 oz. tins Tomatoes.
			1 tin Salmon.
			64 tins Sardines (Portugal).
			1 x 19 oz. tin Cods Roe.
			1 tin Dutch Luncheon Meat.
			4 x 1 lb. tins Luncheon Meat.
			30 x 9 oz. Luncheon Meat.
			1 x 12 oz. tin Minced Beef Loaf.
			4 lbs. Corned Beef.
			12 lbs. Tinned Veal.
			38 lbs. Tinned Ham.
			5 lbs. Luncheon Sausage
			55 lbs. Beef Sausages.
			18 lbs. Chippalata Sausages.
			4 tins Soup.
			1 bottle Salad Cream.
			84 lbs. Semolina.
			9 doz. Polish Eggs.

Total number of visits made to shops and food premises: 298.

### ***Informal Action by Inspectors.***

Fried fish shop	...	...	...	Walls and ceiling cleansed.
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	Walls and ceiling cleansed
5 cafes	...	...	...	Walls, floors and ceiling cleansed.
Butcher's shop	...	...	...	Re-built.
1 shop	...	...	...	New sink and drainage.



# Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, of the Kent County Council for the following report:—

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Dartford Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1950:—

ARTICLE.	No.	ARTICLE.	No.
Baby Teething Powder ...	1	<i>Brought forward</i> ...	26
Beef Meat Paste ...	1	Imitation Cherry Cubes ...	1
Beef Sausages ...	2	Juniper Pills ...	1
Bevmo ...	1	Kola ...	1
Bitter Beer ...	1	Lemon Squash ...	1
Bread and Butter ...	2	Mild Cocoa ...	1
Bronchial Mixture ...	1	Milk ...	49
Butter Mixture ...	1	Milk Pudding Mixture ...	1
Cake Flour Mixture ...	1	No. 1 Yeastless Rusk ...	1
Cherry Cough Balsam ...	1	Pastry Mix ...	1
Crab Paste ...	1	Pea Flour ...	1
Custard Mix ...	1	Peanut Butter ...	1
Doughnuts ...	1	Pepper ...	5
Fresh Cream ...	1	Pork Sausages ...	1
Gin ...	3	Potato Crisps ...	1
Ginger Conserve ...	2	Rum ...	1
Glace Cherries ...	2	Swiss Roll ...	1
Goat's Milk ...	1	Sardines ...	1
Head and Stomach Pills ...	1	Turtle Soup ...	1
Honeysweet ...	1	Whisky ...	1
<hr/> <i>Carried forward</i> ...		<hr/> <b>TOTAL</b> ...	
	26		97
	<hr/>		<hr/>

All the above Samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

Butter Mixture ...	Fat 0.4% (probably butter). Insufficient to justify name. Adulterated.	No action. Matter under review by Ministry of Food.
Pork Sausages ...	39% Meat. Deficient of minimum amount of meat by 22%. Adulterated.	This sample was submitted by a purchaser. Official samples were satisfactory. No further action.
Tuberculin Tested Jersey		
Milk ...	6.25% deficient in fat.	Producer advised. Further samples satisfactory.
Do. ...	1.25% deficient in fat.	
Milk ...	6.7% deficient in fat.	Appeal to Cow samples also deficient in fat. Further samples satisfactory.
Do. ...	3.3% deficient in fat.	

## SHOPS ACTS, 1934-1950.

There are 254 shops in the Rural area; with the exception of 1 wet fish shop, the shops have properly glazed shop fronts.

Other than food preparing premises already recorded, one informal notice was served and complied with to provide heating appliance in shop.

Total number of visits made: 134.

## CAMPING SITES AND MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

Number of camping sites in use during 1950	...	...	...	...	13
Number of camping sites in use for which licences have been granted by the Local Authority under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	13
Number of vans removed where licences were not granted	...	...	...	...	2
Estimated number of persons resident in licensed camps during the summer of 1950	...	...	...	...	402
Number of licences granted in respect of individual caravans	...	...	...	...	20

## ERADICATION OF BUGS, Etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

Number of dwellings disinfested of bed bugs	...	...	...	...	23
Council houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	6
Private dwellings disinfested	...	...	...	...	17
Private dwellings treated for wood worm	...	...	...	...	3
Private dwellings treated for swarms of flies	...	...	...	...	—
Private dwellings treated for wasp nests	...	...	...	...	16
Private dwellings treated for ants nests	...	...	...	...	1

## RODENT CONTROL.

Complaints received of infestation by rats	...	...	...	...	149
Infestations found	...	...	...	...	151
Infestations found by survey	...	...	...	...	69
Complaints received of infestation by mice	...	...	...	...	12
Business premises treated	...	...	...	...	21
Private dwellings treated	...	...	...	...	220
Estimated kill—Rats by M.O.F. formula	...	...	...	...	2,021
Estimated kill—Mice	...	...	...	...	72
Rats killed by trapping	...	...	...	...	166
Dartford R.D.C. Sewers—262 Manholes tested.					

Evidence of rats found in new sections of sewers at Bean and Crockenhill. Combined sewer and surface survey treatment in progress in these areas.

## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

### 1. Inspections under Part 1, Factories Act, 1937.

PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER.	NO. OF INSPEC- TIONS.	NO. OF WRITTEN NOTICES.	NO. OF OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	13	2	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	114	86	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding Outworkers Premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—

### 2. Defects.

PARTICULARS	DEFECTS FOUND.	DEFECTS REMEDIED.	REFERRED To H.M. INSPECTOR.	REFERRED By H.M. INSPECTOR.	NO. OF PROSECU- TIONS.
Want of Cleanliness (Section 1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Section 2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec- tion 4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec- tion 7):					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	2	1	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers) ... ..	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	6	6	1	1	—

### 3. Outworkers.

(a) Total number of outworkers notified to the Council in 1950 under Section 110 (1c), Factory Act, 1937 ... ..	32
(b) Total number of outworkers notified by Dartford Rural District Council to other Councils under Section 110 (2), Factory Act, 1937 ... ..	Nil
(c) Total number of outworkers notified to Dartford Rural District Council by other Councils ... ..	7
(d) Total number of outworkers employed in Dartford Rural District ... ..	39
(e) Total number of inspections of workplaces under Section 111 (i), Factory Act, 1937 ... ..	0
(f) Scheduled occupations followed by outworkers employed in premises in Dartford Rural District: Making paper boxes (32), Wearing apparel (5), Making lampshades (1), Embroidery (1).	

## ***Refuse Collection.***

The refuse collection service comprises of five vehicles of seven cubic yards capacity, each vehicle is manned by a driver and three refuse collectors, each team collecting three loads per day of eight hours.

Generally refuse bins are collected from and returned to the rear of the premises, although many householders, particularly where there is a long carry, are pleased to co-operate and place the dustbin and salvage by the front gate.

During the year the service has been revised from time to time to take care of new properties, and a weekly collection service has been maintained over the greater part of the rural area.

In the more rural areas a fortnightly collection has been found sufficient to satisfy householders.

There was considerable indiscriminate dumping of builders refuse, oil drums, tanks, motor car and lorry wings, etc., in hedges, woods, on road verges and in surface water ponds. Such deposits were cleared by Button Street Depot staff.

## ***Cesspool Emptying.***

There are three mechanical cesspool emptiers, each manned by a driver and one labourer. Each team empty an average of four cesspools per day. It has been found desirable to train refuse vehicle drivers to handle the cesspool vehicles and thus save a vehicle being laid up in time of sickness or holidays. A good type of man employed as a refuse collector is trained to drive a refuse vehicle and is employed as a spare driver to enable all vehicles to be fully employed.

## ***Salvage.***

Markets were bad for all types of salvage and it was not until June I found a market to dispose of cardboard.

The total received for salvage during the year was as follows:—

							£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	235	5	1
Rags	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	17	6
Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	11	3
Bottles, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	3	11
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	19	6
Cullet	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Old Tyres	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0	
TOTAL							£511	1	3